

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 /059 W

----- 110289

P R 070450Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9031

INFO RUMJPG /USLO PEKING 6582

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SEDU, TGEN, CH

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S DAILY ATTACKS "CAPITALIST ROADERS" WITHIN THE PARTY

1. A HARD-HITTING ARTICLE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY FEBRUARY 6 ELEVATES THE CURRENT DEBATE OVER REVISIONISM IN EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC CIRCLES TO BROADER ATTACK ON THOSE "IN POWER INSIDE THE PARTY WHO ADHERE TO THE REVISIONIST LINE OF LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN PIAO." COMING AT TIME WHEN KEY LEADERSHIP DECISIONS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING MADE AT THE CENTER, THE ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT A NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE POST-CHOU ERA WILL TURN ITS BACK ON POLITICAL PRIORITIES AND THE LEGACY OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN A PREOCCUPATION WITH PRODUCTION AND STABILITY.

2. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT THE STRUGGLE IN THE EDUCATION AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FRONTS, WHICH BEGAN IN THE SUMMER

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OF 1975, IS NOT "SIMPLY A DEBATE OVER THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION",

BUT AN ALL-ROUND ATTACK ON THE POST-CULTURAL REVOLUTION CHINESE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. IT CLAIMS THAT THERE ARE UNREPENDENT CAPITALIST ROADERS WITHIN THE PARTY WHO ARE TRYING TO RESTORE THE DECADENT, REVISIONIST SOCIETY THAT EXISTED UNDER LIU SHAO-CHI IN THE 17 YEARS PRIOR TO THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH CONCILIATORY NOTE OF SORTS IN STATING THAT CAPITALIST ROADERS WHO REPENT SINCERLY WILL BE WELCOMED, BUT WARNS THAT IF THEY REFUSE TO CHANGE THEIR WAYS, THEY WILL BE "CRUSHED BY THE TORRENTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MASSES."

3. THE EDUCATION CONTROVERSY SURFACED IN THE MEDIA IN DECEMBER AND ALTHOUGH THE LEAD ARTICLE IN JANUARY'S RED FLAG STRUCK A STRIDENT NOTE THE CONTROVERSY SEEMED TO HAVE DIED DOWN. ARTICLES IN FEBRUARY'S RED FLAG ARE EVEN MORE STRIDENT, HOWEVER, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME HAVE BEGUN HITTING OUT AT SCIENTISTS, AS WELL AS EDUCATORS. THE CURRENT PEOPLE'S DAILY PIECE GROWS OUT OF THE FEBRUARY RED FLAG ARTICLES, AND IS THEREFORE NOT AN ISLOATED ATTACK, BUT A CAREFULLY PLANNED AND ORCHESTRATED SHOT IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A GROWING CAMPAIGN.

4. UNTIL SOME LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE MADE, AND WE HAVE SOME CLEAR-CUT INDICATIONS ON THE POLICIES THE LEADERSHIP PLAN TO PURSUE IN THE POST-CHOU ERA, IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT, WHAT HAS PROMPTED THS PRESENT ATTACK ON CERTAIN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PARTY. HOWEVER, THE EMPHASIS ON PRODUCTION OVER THE LAST PART OF 1975 COUPLED WITH THE CONTINUING FLOW OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION REHABILITEES BEING RESTORED TO HIGH POSITIONS OF POWER, CANNOT BE PLEASING TO THOSE WHO ROSE IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND ARE NOW TRYING TO KEEP BOTH THEIR POLITICAL POSITIONS INTACT AND PROTECT SOME OF THE FRUITS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

5. WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORMER PRESIDNET NIXON'S VISIT TO THE PRC FEBRUARY 21, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT, AT LEAST BY THEN, THE LEADERSHIP PICTURE WILL BE SORTED OUT SOMEWHAT AND THAT MANY OF THE MISSING PEICES TO THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY PYZZLE WILL BEGIN TO EMERGE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL LEADERS, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK01403
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760048-0193
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760272/aaaackzl.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEOPLE'S DAILY ATTACKS "CAPITALIST ROADERS" WITHIN THE PARTY
TAGS: PINT, SEDU, TGEN, CH, PEOPLES DAILY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006